

NEW YORK TIMES
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CURB AT OLYMPICSProtests Committee's Curb
on Radio Free Europe

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13—Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger sent a message to the International Olympic Committee in Innsbruck, Austria today strongly protesting the exclusion of Radio Free Europe from official coverage of the 1976 winter games.

He called the exclusion ordered Feb. 4 by Lord Killanin of Ireland, chairman of the Olympic committee a "craven capitulation to the Communist countries."

According to United States officials, Lord Killanin ordered withdrawal of accreditation for a correspondent of Radio Free Europe in response to objections of Soviet-bloc countries that the Munich-based American station indulged in "subversive propaganda."

He acted on behalf of the nine-member executive council of the Olympic committee, whose representatives are from the Soviet Union, Hungary, West Germany, Spain, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Tunisia and Ireland.

Decision Explained

Lord Killanin later justified his action in a radio statement saying: "We do not want the Olympic games to be used for propaganda or as bait for propaganda."

Mr. Kissinger was asked about the problem yesterday at his State Department news conference, but he was apparently unaware of it.

After being informed by aides and by David M. Abshire, chairman of the United States Board for International Broadcasting, which supervises Radio Free Europe, Mr. Kissinger sent two messages to Austria demanding restoration of the station's accreditation.

One went to Wiley T. Buchanan, the United States Ambassador to Austria, the other to Julian K. Roosevelt, the United States member of the Olympic committee.

In the second message, he denounced Lord Killanin's decision as being a "response to crude political pressure from representatives of certain Communist countries," adding that it had been "justified on spurious grounds."

Mr. Kissinger called the exclusion "totally unwarranted and a capitulation to blatant Communist efforts to make Olympic activities serve their political purposes."

Helsinki Accord Cited

He said further that the exclusion was "contrary to the intent and spirit of the final act signed at Helsinki," concluding the European Security Conference in Finland last summer. The 35-country document specifically called for freer exchange of opinions and freedom of movement for journalists.

Radio Free Europe was

founded by the Central Intelligence Agency and was secretly financed by the agency until 1971, when it was transformed into an independent body, along with Radio Liberty, openly supported through a Congressional appropriation.

But the East European countries have continued to denounce Radio Free Europe as a propaganda transmitter "run by the C.I.A."

Radio Free Europe had been accredited to cover Olympic games since 1952. Its correspondent in Innsbruck has been covering this year's games from a hotel room, from where he follows the events on television.

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